

Duluth Lighthouse for the Blind

Forty-Eighth Annual Meeting

January 23, 1968



**A Member Agency of the
UNITED FUND**

THE DULUTH LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND is responsible for providing services and information to blind and visually handicapped people of Duluth and the surrounding areas. During 1967 these aims were accomplished through the Social Service, Workshop and Retail Sales Departments.

SOCIAL SERVICE

The Social Service Department sponsors social, educational and recreational activities in an attempt to meet some of the special needs of the elderly blind people of this area. These are both individual and group programs. During 1967 this department had 2137 contacts with 246 individual blind adults, 65% of whom were 60 years or older. 43% of our clients were found to have more than one disability. A known 27% are also being served by another health or welfare agency, as we attempt to work toward the functional fulfillment of the whole individual. Seven adults have received training in home management in 1967 and many more have had instruction in leisure-time activities, skills of daily living, and personal grooming and management. Relatives and employers of blind people make frequent use of the educational services of this department.

Programs which provide "perception by doing" rather than by description have been an important key to the wide variety of experiences available to blind grade and junior-high students in 1967. Parties, picnics, snow-mobiling, horseback riding, swimming, cooking, crafts, adapted games and special trips have been offered in addition to the weekly bowling opportunity donated by Stadium Lanes. 37 Senior Girl Scouts and UMD Group leadership students have provided the 1876 volunteer man-hours for these adventures. Multiply-involved blind children who attend Minnesota Braille and Sight-Saving School during the year are included in summer and holiday activities. Consultation and educational services are available to parents of blind infants as well as to parents and teachers of school age visually handicapped youngsters.

Seventeen organizations and student nursing classes have toured our facilities in 1967, learning courtesies and services to blind people. A continuous effort is made to inform all clients of aids and devices, and services available from related agencies, in keeping with this agency's Charter purpose -- to meet the otherwise unmet needs of the blind people of Duluth.

We are indebted to the following organizations for their generous and continued support of the activities of the Social Service Department: Altrusa Club of Duluth, Delta Gamma Sorority, Duluth Elks Lodge #133, Duluth Lion L's, Hilltop Lion's Club, Lakeside-Lester Park Businessmen's Club, Lion's Club of Duluth, Senior Girl Scout Troop #185, Stadium Lanes Bowling Alley, and the West Duluth Moose Auxiliary.

WORKSHOP

The Workshop continues to provide training and employment to blind persons and those with other disabilities. In order to qualify for government contracts and the Skillcraft Trademark, it is required that 75% of the hours for preparation, production and packaging be performed by blind persons. During 1967 there were five full-time blind workers, one blind worker part-time and one blind trainee employed in the production of pillowcases, ironing board covers, rugs, handy hangs, and other products. These blind workers earned a total of \$10,236.00. During 1967 two sighted workers were regularly employed performing inspection, shipping and receiving, and janitorial duties in addition to production operations. Through cooperation with the Bryant School On the Job Training Program, six sighted young people received evaluation in the performance of mostly non-production tasks. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation referred two sighted persons to the Workshop for training in preparation for re-entry into the world of work.

The Shop produced 53,280 pillowcases for the Federal Government and shipped 1,027 dozen ironing board covers and 790 dozen ironing board covers with pads to the Armed Forces Commissary Program. Shipments were made to seventeen agencies for the blind throughout the country, of products produced within the shop. Workshop sales can be broken down as follows:

<u>SALES</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>
U.S. Government	\$27,944.03	\$18,886.70
Commissary	19,290.86	13,905.57
Sales to Other Shops	28,361.68	40,566.19
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Total	\$75,596.57	\$73,358.46

RETAIL SALES

For the past three years the Retail Sales Department has been an integral part of the Lighthouse program. Through it the community is able to obtain Skillcraft and other quality blind made products for household and commercial use. Products purchased from seven agencies for the blind throughout the country supplement the items produced within our shop. These items are available through sales dealers and our local store.

Sales after dealers' commissions amounted to \$11,461.81.

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